The Logger's Bark

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

JUNE 2020 VOLUME 17, ISSUE 6 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DAVE W7UUU

Looks like things are starting to get back to normal in many ways!

Isn't it wonderful? As we come out of winter into Spring, and very soon, Summer, it's so nice to see much of the local world returning to something close to normal. With many Washington counties slowly advancing to Phase II of the State's quarantine program to fight the spread of Covid-19, we're starting to see the return of restaurants and local shopping in our communities. And it couldn't be a better time, as I'm sure we all know how badly this is needed.

Of course, there have been some setbacks in other areas of society – most notably the recent social upheaval regarding racial tensions and unrest not just in the US but around the world, all surrounding the horrific events in Minneapolis. But as I write this column, even those tensions are starting to ease as society in general climbs back out of the mess that was the Pandemic of 2020.

Our meetings have continued to be held via online conferencing using the now-ubiquitous Zoom platform. And I have to give a big hand to all the folks who have really adapted quickly to this new format of doing things, and all the potentials such technology brings to future club events, pandemic or not! But on this track, our Board of Directors and General meetings will for the near future continue in this format, with the July Board meeting happening via Zoom on July 1, 2020. However, at this upcoming board meeting, we are all hoping that we will agree that the Radio Club of Tacoma August picnic happen as it has in years past, in person, on the grounds of Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood! The board will be voting on this decision then, and by all indications, we should have smooth sailing for our annual summer event to happen as it always has – in the outdoors, in the park! In fact, just in the last week or so, all of the park restrictions have been removed and the shelters have reopened to public use. So keep an eye on www.W7DK.org for any announcements following the upcoming board meeting.

And as more good news, despite the fact that the upcoming Field Day (as we have known it since its inception) will not be taking place – but the ARRL has officially amended the rules to allow stations operating on "home power" (i.e., AC power from the utility service) as Class 1D will, for this year only, be allowed to work other Class 1D stations for points in the event, for those who count their points in the "contest aspect" of field day. As we all know, Field Day is more than a contest – it's a chance for amateur radio operators to test their gear and operating skills in something more closely related to an emergency situation. Counting points for contacts, and seeking the highest score is not the sole purpose of the event. But prior to 2020, stations operating on commercial power would not count in the scoring to work other such 1D, or "mains powered" stations. So this year, due to the CV19 situation, that rule is amended so that pretty much any station may work any other station and still score the points!

As we slowly climb out of all the weirdness that 2020 has been in the few months since this all began, there really does appear to be an end in sight and things are indeed looking up. Hopefully by the end of this summer, Washington state will emerge from the final phases of the shut down, and much of our life here in the Northwest and elsewhere will return to

Page1: Da Prez!

Page 3: From the Editor

Page: 4—9 Club Reports

Page 10: ARES Matters

Page 11: RCT History, last section!

Page 14: APRS Digi-Peater KR7W

Page 17: W7OS Museum report.

Page 18: Bunny hunt!

Page 19: Mailbag!

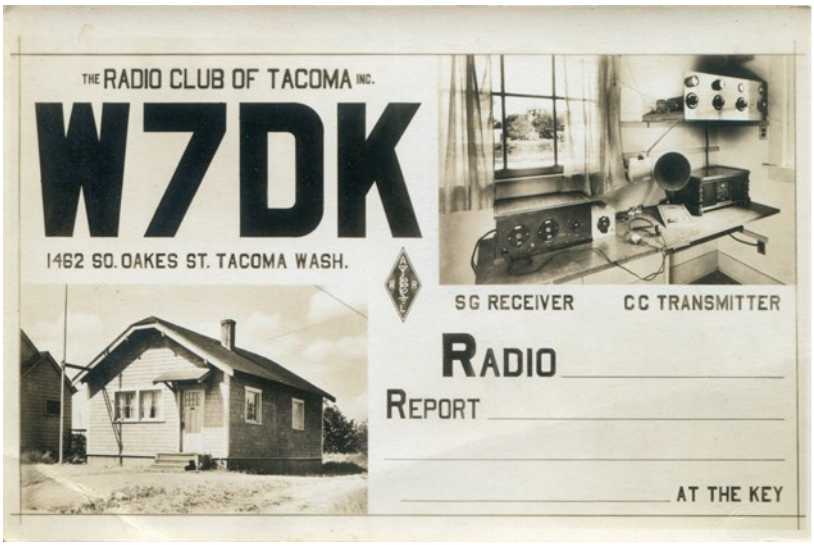
Honorable mention to Rich, KR7W for his contributions to the Bark this month! Thanks Rich!

normal, students will return to schools, professional sports will resume, and life will go on and we can all work to pick up the pieces. There is much to look forward to.

On that note, I wish all reading this health, happiness, and a wonderful summer that seems to be unfolding around us daily.

All my best,

Dave
W7UUU



From the Editor

Hello again club members!

Another month into the continuing Covid-19 situation and nothing has changed. At least in our state, we are keeping ahead of this mess. Hopefully we will pull out of it soon.

So, on to another subject: as I write this it is Fathers day 2020! I hope all the fathers, grandfathers and assorted uncles out there are having a nice Fathers day weekend.

Next weekend of course, is Field day and as Prez Dave talked about, its going to be a bit different this time around. We can all do Field day from home if we wish and the scores can be grouped together for one big club score for W7DK. Also new this year is the ability for home stations on mains power, (1D) to work each other for points. The ARRL made this one time change for this year only. Don't expect it to carry over to 2021. That is, unless we're still suffering from the virus that afflicts us now… The powers that be assure us that we'll be OK. So that means we will be, right?

Right!?! PS: that last was a bit sarcastic so wipe it out of your head!

Not too much going on in the world of ham radio these days. HF propagation is still very poor. On another note, many stations around the USA have seen very good conditions on six meters. Day after day, the DX clusters show almost all spots for six meters and almost nothing for the other bands…

So last week's ARRL VHF/UHF contest should have resulted in record numbers of contacts. We'll have to wait a bit for the results!

Speaking of ARRL, they are offering a lot of incentives for new members, usually in the form of additional publications available in either print or digital forms. Check it out at arrl.org. Existing members are also getting the digital versions of QST, QEX, Contest Journal and On the Air! .

Well, that's enough from me for this month! 73 all, Gary WG7X

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
June 3, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

Meeting called to order at 1900 by Dave Ellison W7UUU

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was seated and 15 participants were in attendance via Zoom. Attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness?

Heather and Worth W7WG are doing OK. Will try to get on Zoom. Apparently Worth's radio antennas are all down and he's off the air. He could use some help to get something up.
Dave Andresen's W7HTJ: health continues to deteriorate. He's bed ridden and weak but still has his sense of humor.
Nick Winter K7MO came through an Angiogram in good order recently.
CT Ballard N7UH RCT Lifetime Member RCT# 2229, became a Silent Key recently.

Raymond E. Pedersen (W7KFN), a Lifetime Member RCT # 1133 passed away May 12th.

Steve Morton AD7AB, had surgery on leg and while in hospital found out he had a heart issue but was able to get it taken care of with a non-open heart procedure.

Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2020 RCT BOD meeting: Bruce WE7P moved and Red WB7EC seconded a motion to approve the minutes from May as circulated. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Usual stuff, some bills, some QSL cards, one new member application.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Only utility bills received last month. There has been a donation to RCT. Spending in excess of income to date is XXXX.XX Account balance is $XXXX.XX

Committee / Reports

Membership (K7GRS)

No report.

Library Report (AD7AV)

Report attached.

Training: John AC7WW reports VE Testing (in cars) will occur at the club Tuesday June 9th at 7:00 PM and Sunday July 14th at 1:00 & 3:00 PM.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB) Randy hasn't focused on clubhouse computers as no activities for now; the class room computer is still down. He did back up the NAS. He's started working on DX Keeper and LOTW logbooks bringing several contest logs to update. Looking for LOTW QSO manager. The website is updated constantly as needed. He's

trying to find various people to help update website.

HF Operations (K7PIA) HF Committee is on hiatus. People are still working on RTTY and Loggers Certificate.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS) Report attached.

Facilities Mgmt (W2NCC) Adam has a list of projects he'd like to get to at the top of the list is ceiling tiles. Still considering making a box at the base of the tower at the club so people can drive up and use the radio antenna.

Property Mgmt (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported no sales or income this last month but still getting some donations.

Museum (KR7W) No report.

Weds Workshop TBA may be a second Wednesday activity about Field Day. Randy will have an email blast.

General Meeting (KF7SCB) Will discuss FD again probably about the change ARRL has made in allowing 1D stations to contact other 1D for points. Possibly more on M1MM logging.

Unfinished Business No updates on 14th St Encroachment.

New Business: August Picnic is scheduled and paid for August 9 at Fort Steilacoom Park. Does BOD want to make any changes? BOD decided to wait at least another month. No need to make a move right now. Tentatively we had talked to Mike Ritz W7VO about presentation of ARRL 100th anniversary. Need to contact him to suggest that may still be happening.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics: Doug AD7AV asked: What about dedication of Doug DeMaw Library? When is the right time and place?
Verna – KF7SCB pointed out our last AED training was 2 years ago so certificates are expiring.

Announcements: Not an RCT **Bunny Hunt:** Thursday, June 4, 0900--meet near the Pt Defiance Parks N. Mildred St Park Gate- 2/10 mile North of N 51st/Mildred St. Park on the street.

Standing in for this year's live event will be the **SEA-PAC QSO Party** on Saturday, June 6, starting at 1600 UTC and continuing until June 7 at 0400 UTC.

Adjournment at: 20:00

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Drorbaugh-W7MKE

Attachments

W7DK LAHM Report to RCT Board, June 2020
Repeater Committee Report to RCT Board June, 2020
Zoom Attendance List for RCT BOD June, 2020

W7DK LAHM Report to the RCT Board, June 2020

LAHM Committee: Head Librarian, Archivist, and Historian Douglas E. Oakman AD7AV, Peter Baker AD7EU, Adam Barbera W2NCC, Steve Dightman AF7YD, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Randy Myer WB4SPB, Rich Patrick KR7W, Assistant Librarian George Salisbury K7GRS, Sue Schub KF7SOW, Pat Wingerter WT7N

Radio Club of Tacoma Library Purpose Statement (February 2008)

The W7DK library exists to preserve the history of the club and of amateur radio as well as to provide useful technical information to members.

General Library Policy

Reference library items do not circulate, except those in a specially designated circulating collection. Items donated to the library are, by decision of the library committee, kept in the collection, sold at Hamfest or on eBay, or put on the Saturday free tables. Donated items in any case benefit the club in general.

The pandemic and subsequent developments have kept the Head Librarian mostly at home (preexisting condition). So plans have had to be readjusted accordingly.

2020 activities and achievements – current status

- Current library holdings – 840 items listed in the catalog; 220 items in the circulating library; there are also CDs in the circulating library; current copies of QST, RadCOM, and Electric Radio in the upstairs rack (and archive of *Electric Radio* in the museum); 56 ebooks on website; plus other radio links of interest (to be expanded)
- Head Librarian has acquired a large number of books related to telegraphy and the early development of radio; these will be contributed to the club server holdings (perhaps offered also on the website)
- Library budget – new acquisitions and other expenses so far in 2020 have amounted to $314.68, including $101 set aside for subscriptions; the remainder of the $600 budget may apply to the History project
- Only three new items were added to the DeMaw Circulating Library so far, an order of new ARRL books is pending
- Archives – Peter AD7EU and Doug AD7AV photographed the Al Stenso and Doc Spike scrapbooks for the purpose of electronic preservation (these files still need to be transferred to the club server)
- Head Librarian was able to contact Leon Barker about videos taken for the 90th anniversary event; alas, due to his personal situation, he no longer has the disk drives

Issues and priorities

- W7DK History Project - Compiling and editing the history was a priority at the turn of the year. The first edition is now appearing in four issues of the BARK.
- Assistant Librarian George is working on an automated system to track circulating books
- Head Librarian will email members to return overdue books as necessary
- Doug DeMaw Circulating Library remains the primary focus of collection development to serve membership better; only strategic items will be added to the upstairs Reference Library
- At an opportune time, the LAHM committee will develop a new library policy statement

Future agenda

- Dedication of Doug DeMaw Circulating Library, perhaps to coincide with presentation of centennial certificate for ARRL affiliation

- Determine whether to produce the club history in book form
- Develop a rotating pictorial of club and radio history for flat-screen display on west wall in the classroom
- Pursue equipment to digitize important club archival material

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT (N7OMS)

There has been some progress with the APRS system for the W7DK 28 repeater. Rich has the APRS hardware undergoing online testing and final hardware design work.

The antenna on the west end of the club house was replaced. This is now a single band antenna with slightly better gain for better area coverage for the W7DK APRS.

Looking for a way to celebrate the new APRS addition. Maybe have the general meeting on APRS and get membership acquainted with this service? Will contact Verna and see if she can make this happen. Already had a member talk about using the W7DK APRS to his advantage even though it is still located at KR7W location.

I have received a cable that will allow us to access the Arcom controller and it is my hope to get over to the club house and try it out. At that point I will encourage others to come over and log on. Unfortunately this cable turns out to be unusable for our purpose so will order again.

Two new house brackets have been ordered and received for the east end of the club house. These will be for an outside antenna to support the radio in the kitchen. Bob Purdom has in his custody a newer dual band radio that will be installed in the kitchen area that will allow us to access all the clubs repeaters and hear many others. For that project Rich has harvested a piece of coax from rerouting the East end antenna. Also there will be a new method of mounting this radio and power supply. This will provide better usage of counter space.

Jimmy K7SSS has taken on the task of creating the "Dream Repeater" with no limits on cost. This is an exercise in seeing what is out there. No need to worry we are not asking to put this in place just interested. If any board or officer wish's to see the result please let me know.

All club repeaters are working and no trouble has been reported to me.

End of report.

Al

N7oms

ZOOM meeting called to order at 13:32 Local by Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Paul Matney K7PFU
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hansen WE7P

Welcome and Self-Introductions : 24 people attended all or part of the Zoom meeting. Attendance list is attached.

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness: Heather and Worth W7WG are doing OK. Will try to get on Zoom. Apparently Worth's radio antennas are all down and he's off the air. He could use some help to get something up.

Dave Andresen's W7HTJ health continues to deteriorate. He's bed ridden and weak but still has his sense of humor.

Nick Winter K7MO came through an Angiogram in good order recently.

CT Ballard N7UH RCT Lifetime Member RCT# 2229, became a Silent Key recently.

Raymond E. Pedersen (W7KFN), a Lifetime Member RCT # 1133 passed away May 12th

Steve Morton AD7AB had surgery on leg and while in hospital found out he had a heart issue but was able to get it taken care of with a non-open heart procedure.

Red WB7EC reports he had some health issues and is recovering at home.

Secretary's Report: Usual bills, magazines and QSL cards arrived along with two new member applications received on Friday.

Treasurer's Report: Only utility bills received last month. There has been a nice donation to RCT. Spending in excess of income to date is $XXXX.XX. Account balance is $XXXXX.XX.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (K7GRS): No report. We need to update SK plaque and Secretary will request George K7GRS generate a list of needed updates.

Training (AD7AB): Next technician class is October.

VE Report (John AC7WW): We had a drive in testing session June 9Th in the clubhouse parking lot. It was wet! Three VE's were in the parking lot and four VE's in the clubhouse grading and doing the paper work. We had eleven candidates with 16 exams graded. Six new Technicians joined the Amateur Service and four passed Extra. One of the candidates that passed extra had an expired (ten years) General license. After passing the Technician (having credit for the general) he passed the Extra. Thanks to the following for their service and time: Leonard KA7NWF; Jan K7HTU; Rich KK7VH; Mike W7XH; Stephen AD7AB; Brian AG7ZY

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday, June 14, 2020

HF Operations (K7PIA): No HF at club so nothing to report.

Repeater Operations (N7OMS): Rich KR7W installed a Comet GP6 dual band APRS antenna on west side of clubhouse. We have acquired a better dual band transceiver for the kitchen and will install it under upper cabinets to free up more counter space. It will allow us to monitor all club repeaters.

IT Report (WB4SPB): Randy is working on DX Keeper and LOTW logbooks bringing several contest logs up to date. He's looking for LOTW QSO manager. The website is updated constantly as needed. He's trying to find various people to help update website.

Museum (KR7W): SX- 28 Hallicrafter was donated to the club by the wife of a SK. It most probably will be used for parts or to sell as Club has one already.

Property Management (WB7EC): Some donations are still coming in. Please note items for sale in BARK and contact Red if there's something you want.

Facilities management(W2NCC): Adam W2NCC and Mike W7HX fixed ceiling tiles that were missing or broken. Thanks Adam W2NCC and Mike W7XH. Bill Hodge N6TO may donate a security camera system for the club, if so it will be installed. Patrick K7DKP offered to assist with installing camera as he's had experience doing that.

4th Wed. Night Activity (WB4SPB): Nothing planned for 4th Wednesday because of proximity to Field Day, but will have a 3rd Wednesday session instead to address FD preparations and/or logging using Apple computers.

Bark Editor (WG7X): Thanks to contributors. Always looking for more contributors.

New Business : No new business

Unfinished Business / Announcements : Anyone can still get Loggers Certificate for those interested. Just need to contact 10 RCT members. Doesn't have to be RTTY

Program: Verna KF7SCB and Randy WB4SPB updated attendees about Field Day

The ARRL newsletter June 11th had a good Q&A about rule changes, logging, etc. Good info on different bonus points available Verna wonders if we need Elmer's or troubleshooters for help during FD? RCT will have a ZOOM meeting on going during FD. All RCT loggers need to all use: Radio Club of Tacoma—exactly to identify our logs for club credit.

Randy has put a 2020 Field Day button at the top of the W7DK web page. Good information about FD included in that tab. Lots of information about setup of N1MM and N3FJP logging programs and internet real time updates of club

cumulative score.

Show and Tell: Link to Patrick's (K7DKP) DX commander antenna: https://www.m0mcx.co.uk/store/products/multi-band-80m-6m-hf-antenna-p-ale-compliant-antenna-survival-prep-sota-kit/

Nick showed his "multiplier" bell, and his new QSL card.

Mike W7XTZ has a VHS tape of RCT's 70th Anniversary party (1976)

Tuning and Traffic:

Paul W7PFU ordered pizza from Italy via HF, age of pizza and delivery method not disclosed.

Phil K7PIA got a QSL card from VP8PJ South Orkney Is.

Adjournment: Adjournment at 15:08

Respectfully submitted,Mike Drorbaugh

RCT Secretary

ARES MATTERS

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
Western Washington Section
District 5, Pierce County ARES
www.PierceCountyARES.net

June 2020

Greetings, fellow Hams!

ARES MATTERS provides information about amateur radio emergency communications, Pierce County ARES activities, and events; courtesy of the Radio Club of Tacoma, ***Loggers Bark***. ARES is an ARRL organization dedicated to Amateur Radio Emergency Communication through proficiency and preparedness.

Unfortunately, we are still not holding in-person meetings or training sessions. All of our online content is available on our website. We also conduct virtual training sessions using the Zoom application.

General information notes:

District 5 ARES is conducting a daily (1100L) Resource and Information NET on the W7AAO 145.3700 W MHz repeater. We conduct random over the air training sessions in conjunction with this net to practice voice traffic handling and Winlink operations. Our dedicated NET control team has been honing their skills and improving the quality of our District NET operations. If you want to learn more about NET control operations, this NET is an excellent venue. We routinely practice emergency and priority traffic, relieving the NET control, and jumping the NET to an alternate frequency. Please participate in the NET and consider volunteering for the NET control team.

Our NET control team has assumed responsibility for the weekly District NET, and we have changed the format to coincide with the R&I NET. We now take team reports and check-ins in Team order. Our NET schedule is posted on the website, and NETs are open to all amateurs.

We are diligently working on expanding our Winlink infrastructure within Pierce County; we hope to deploy an additional two gateways over the summer. One will be a 1200 baud packet gateway, and the second will be a VARA FM gateway located in central Tacoma. The Winlink system is the preferred mode to support emergency management agencies across the country and is used by FEMA/DHS and other federal partners. If you are not familiar with Winlink operations, we can help. We also conduct a weekly Winlink check-in NET open to all amateurs. You may check-in at any point during the week on multiple modes/bands. The check-in email address is winlink@piercecountyares.net.

The Bonney Lake EOC is coming online. The City of Bonney Lake has recently installed all of the antennas to support their amateur radio station, and we hope the remaining station equipment will be installed soon. We are seeking operators to support the Bonney Lake EOC for both voice and digital modes. This area of the County has long been underserved, and this is an excellent opportunity to support your community.

Pierce County District 5 Website: http://www.piercecountyares.net/web
ARES Membership Application: http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application
Twitter: @ARESWWADist5

Gary Emmons
District 5 PIO
KH2AY
newsletter@piercecountyares.net

Committed to our Community
When All Else Fails

History of the Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

From the Beginning Until Just the Other Day

Dedicated to Larry Watson KD4VOM, Inspirational Leader

[PART III] WORLD WAR II AND THE POST WORLD WAR ERA

Once again, ham radio was shut down for the duration of the war. Numerous hams were able to offer their skills as military radio operators. Ham radio demonstrated its value in having a ready supply of such operators available in a time of world crisis. The archives of the club, for instance, show that Doc Spike was recognized and honored both by the American Red Cross and the City of Tacoma for his meritorious service during the war. During the Korean and Vietnam wars, W7DK members were active in establishing phone patches to connect soldiers to families back at home.

Important developments in amateur radio can be traced to the post-war period. Many hams converted war surplus radios to ham use. The invention of the transistor in 1947 would revolutionize radio construction, though *Amateur Radio Handbooks* during the 1950s and 1960s still exhibited homebrew tube radios. Hams embraced SSB transmission and VHF communications in the 1950s. This was a rich time in the evolution of amateur practice.

Club minutes show that the club reactivated on March 25, 1946, with ten in attendance. Club activity revived with the members who had been involved with civil defense. They soon became affiliated with Tacoma Pierce County Red Cross and set up a station in the Red Cross Headquarters at 7th and Broadway. Meetings were held there twice a month and the first CD [Civil Defense] bus was outfitted in 1953. Matching funds from the federal government, with money from Tacoma civil defense, secured the vehicle. The fire department put in the wiring, generators and power distribution panel, then the club added the radio equipment. For a time club members staffed the bus to facilitate interoperability between tactical ham radio and public service radio (fire and police).

Major post-war productions took place at Field Day. Field Day outings in the late 1940s were rugged, so when club members started going to Joe Asplund's (W7IG) farm in 1951, they welcomed the covered areas and good antenna locations. They continued improving the location and the scores for thirty years at W7IG's. Club archives demonstrate the dedication to effective operating through many QSL cards and numerous awards for various special events and contests.

In 1954 the club worked hard in helping to secure "ham" license plate legislation. It took two legislative sessions to get the Weingarten Act passed; but with Judge William Goodloe WA7GWJ putting in lots of hours in the right places, the goal was achieved.

After convening at the Red Cross, Civil Defense office, State Patrol Headquarters and wherever the club could find to meet, the present clubhouse was purchased in 1958. Realtor member Mel Pruitt K7ATF found the bargain property. About a dozen club members pledged the down payment of $2,200 and then the fun began. Many long days were spent making the clubhouse usable, but despite the expense of redoing the house, the membership was able to pay off the mortgage in November of 1960. Bob Heselberg K7MXE recalls that a cake was present for the mortgage-burning ceremony. In those days, the main room on the ground floor was oriented north-south rather than east-west as the classroom is today.

While both men and women held call signs, nevertheless, the Women's Auxiliary was formed for YLs and XYLs by Irma Duncan W7OVW in the early 1950s and continued for forty years. Marge Hazelmyer, Rene Smith, Ethel Devish W7WLX, Inez Churchward W7RXT, and many others are listed in *BARKs* as holding leadership positions in the Auxiliary. Activities included social outings, contributing and operating the clubhouse kitchen, and (without forgetting to mention) radio-related fun with the men/"widowers" (see sidebar on Irma Duncan and the Women's Auxiliary).

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Irma Aufang Duncan W7OVW (1910-1993) – Irma obtained her amateur license in 1950. She was asked in 1950 by President Roy Devish W7AZI to form the Women's Auxiliary. Jokingly, she said at the time that the purpose of the wives' group was "to hatch plots on how to blow up their husbands' equipment"! They felt that they were truly a "widows' group." The Auxiliary was active until 1991, with activities regularly reported in the *BARK* after 1963. Irma was the warning officer for civil defense for two years, She was a monitor of 29.6 MHz, which was the RCT's calling frequency at that time, and later she was a faithful control operator of the autopatch on 147.28 MHz. Irma worked for C. & G. Electronics during the 1960s—a favorite hangout for club members. After Irma's first husband Chuck Aufang W7BMG died, she married Joe Duncan. She and Joe, along with John Kelly W7KKN and Joe Winter WA7RWK, formed the Pierce County River Watch still in action today. Joe and Irma especially appreciated reading the "Meet the Loggers" features in the *BARK*. Irma received the Doc Spike Award in 1987.

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The club newsletter *THE LOGGERS BARK* was inaugurated in December 1963 and continues to this day. Margie Chavis K7AMJ played a leading role along with Ralph Rawlings W7COP, Dick Ryan W7RGD, Emil Koth K7GPK, Scotty Huntley K7CYZ, and Merl Chavis W7IKG. All worked very diligently to establish an ongoing record of club activities, and *BARKs* have played a crucial role in the writing of this history. (The first *BARK* showed an antenna masthead; the second, however, a log with an embedded ax. It seems that "LOGGERS BARK" was intended to reflect the club's geographic location in and the prevalent industry of the PNW.)

At first, Dick Ryan produced the newsletter on a mimeograph machine donated by Max Bice W7AEA. An offset printer allowed photos and a more professional product in July 1964. Editors Emil Koth and Margie Chavis invited members to share news about equipment, homebrewing, and operating. Regular features were to include FCC and ARRL news, CW discussion, reports from the Puget Sound Council of amateur radio Clubs, happenings in AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) and civil defense (including RACES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). Chuck Aufang W7BMG, along with wife Irma, was a leader in the club's RACES activities. This first issue also provided information on transmitter hunts, operation on VHF, the monthly pinochle session, the swap column, a technical column, and other items of club interest. There were even some (very) bad ham jokes and poetry. A handy calendar of events became a regular feature for many years.

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Margie Chavis Beechie K7AMJ (1928-2002) - Margie was a post-war leader in the Women's Auxiliary, and she played a key role in helping to get the *BARK* up and running in 1963. Margie's husband at the time was Merl Chavis; together, husband and wife were big contributors to club life. Besides the *BARK*, Margie put together materials for the 50th anniversary of the club in 1966. Her precious scrapbook now resides in the club archives. It provides many insights into events of the first half-century of the club and especially into club members and activities from 1945 to the early 1960s. Margie remained a *BARK* editor into the mid-1970s. In the professional world, Margie worked for the Tacoma Health Department and then owned and operated The Spinning Wheel in Tacoma. Her handiwork was greatly admired at the annual fairs.

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The *BARKs* kept membership abreast of technical developments in radio and events in the lives of members. Members' personal goings-on were noted for some time in "Slivers and Splinters." Starting in 1965, *BARKs* also included "Meet the Loggers," brief sketches about the lives of various members. Mentioned Loggers were Steve Dightman, the Churchwards, the Chavises, Tip Caster, Russ Chryst, William Chovil, Joe Asplund, John Austin, Rich Andersen, Irma Duncan, Dave Edmondson, Darrell Erickson, Tom Gilmore, Dick Hazelmyer, Scotty Huntley, Bob Jenks, Emil Koth, Dr. Del Kohler, Jim Kelly, Lloyd Larson, Dwayne and Patty Lewis, Jim Marshburn, Roy Monroe, Hunt Mitchell, Charles ("Chip") Margelli, and Elmer Rhoads. This practice gave way later to the "Ham" or "Logger of the Month" recognition, including Elmer Rhoads, John Bonnefield, Otho Smith, Ethel Devish, Ralph Fuller, Jack Lenhart, Grace Tietzel, Tom Sutton, Kathy Wood, Ray Ernsbarger, Steve Dightman (a second notice, a very famous guy still today!), William Antes, and Eva Anderson. Subsequently for a number of years, Doc Spike wrote "Alumni Notes." Of course, today the club's top recognition is the Doc Spike Inspirational Award, which was first presented to Doc in 1974. Appendix 1 lists all Doc Spike awardees.

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Clifford "Doc" Spike W7OS (1900-1991) – CQ CQ CQ DE W7OS… You know the call. Perhaps you've even sent it. Why does the Radio Club of Tacoma use Doc Spike's call for our Museum station? A look through the club's records provides many answers.

F. Clifford J. Spike was first licensed as 7CS in 1915, according to the Silent Key (SK) notice we have from the 1991 *BARK*. Finding like-minded radioists, the obit tells us that he joined up as a charter member of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Between that call and W7OS in 1927 he was licensed as 7AF (his upgrade), graduated from Stadium High School, and went off to the University of Pennsylvania to study dentistry.

Returning to Tacoma, "Doc" Spike jumped right back into participation in the club he'd helped found. He was elected President in 1931, 1956, 1957, and again in 1966, not to mention holding many other offices over the years. Remembering the club's history was clearly important to him. His "Ham of the Year" award for 1970 credits him with the SK board we all look at in the clubhouse. In addition, much of the ephemera that's been preserved over the years is due to his stewardship. Indeed, his Loggers Certificates are just as carefully preserved in his scrapbook as his citations from the mayor and other dignitaries.

Of course, like many of us, Doc's ham activity was not limited to RCT. While chairing the 1932 ARRL NW Division Convention, he was inducted into the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong in a midnight conclave. Doc also founded the Northwest chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and served as its chairman and national representative. (For the uninitiated the Wouff Hong was invented by Hiram Percy Maxim, T.O.M. (The Old Man) as a device to punish rotten senders, lids, and other bad operators. A replica hangs in the clubhouse classroom as a reminder—everything must always be in accord with good amateur practice.) See http://www.amfone.net/WouffHong/wouff.htm

Doc continued his participation in club activities for the rest of his life and was the first recipient of the award that now bears his name.

Why does the Radio Club of Tacoma use Doc Spike's call for our Museum station? He was a major force in our club and in ham radio for nearly seventy-five years.

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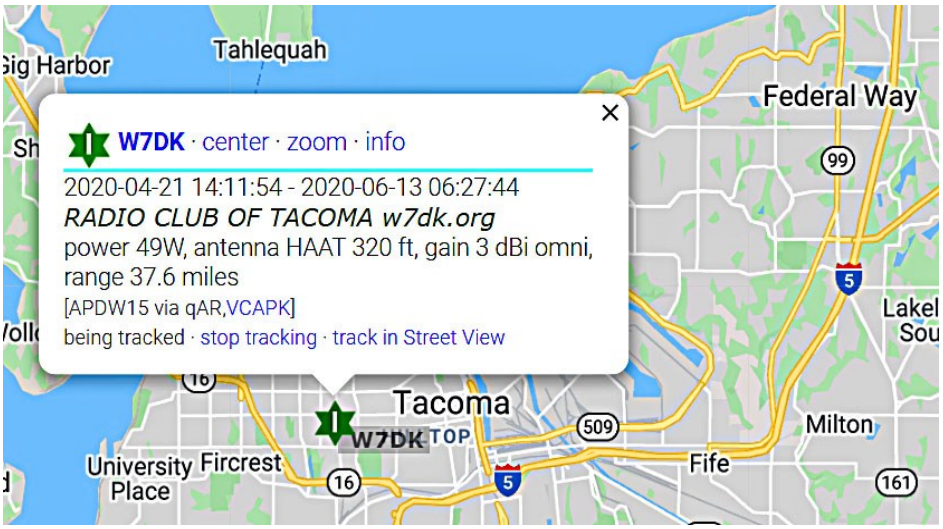
APRS Digi-Peater - At a Radio Club House Near You

by Cub Reporter KR7W

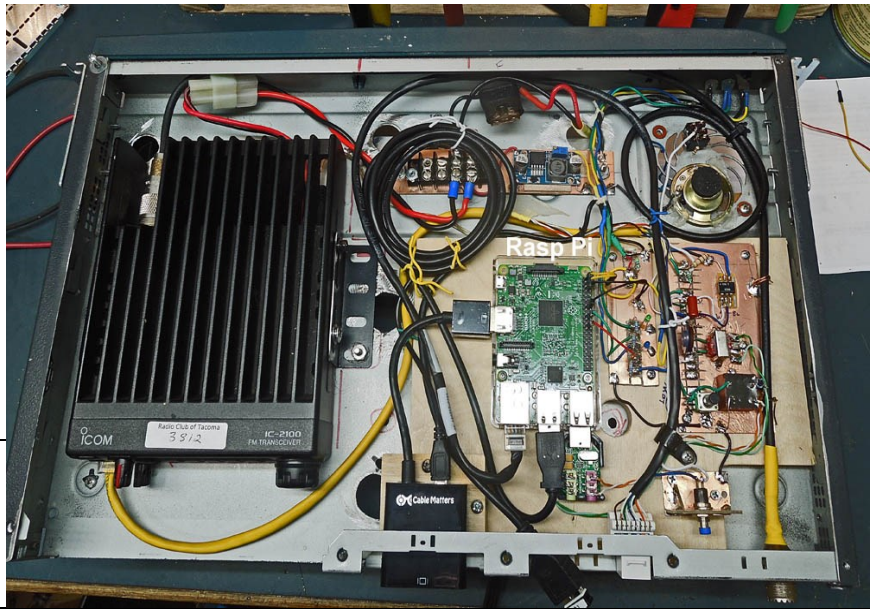
I happened to be sitting in my front yard patio area using my Kenwood D-72 HT with homebrew vertical dipole antenna - chatting on the W7DK Crawford Mountain 147.380 repeater to a ham in Yelm, where I mentioned that **W7DK - The Radio Club of Tacoma is now on the map**. Ole Joe Ham, KX7JH happened to hear the QSO and was in my 'hood so he stopped by my patio ham station. The first thing that socially distanced Ole Joe asks is: **What do you mean that W7DK RCT is on the map?** I just happened to have my I-Pad with me and accessed this web address: **www.aprs.fi/w7dk** (click it to go there). Check this out, Ole Joe...



How'd that get there? Ole Joe wants to know. It's because there is a brand new homebrew **APRS Digi-Peater** slash **I-Gate** installed at the clubhouse in one of the repeater racks. Of course, Ole Joe has many more questions that will be answered "to the best of my knowledge" in this 3 page article. After all- I am not a Zen Master APRS hobbyist.

What the heck is APRS? Sez Joe. The **A**utomatic **P**acket **R**eporting **S**ystem is a ham built and administered digital communications system that uses the packet mode to transmit geo-position information and short email and SMS text messages over amateur radio. Most APRS hams use it as a 'tracker'- where their mobile radio is coupled with a TNC (Terminal Node Controller) and a GPS receiver– sends out their position and a short message into the APRS network. The network is comprised of Digital Repeaters of different hierarchies or levels of complexity.

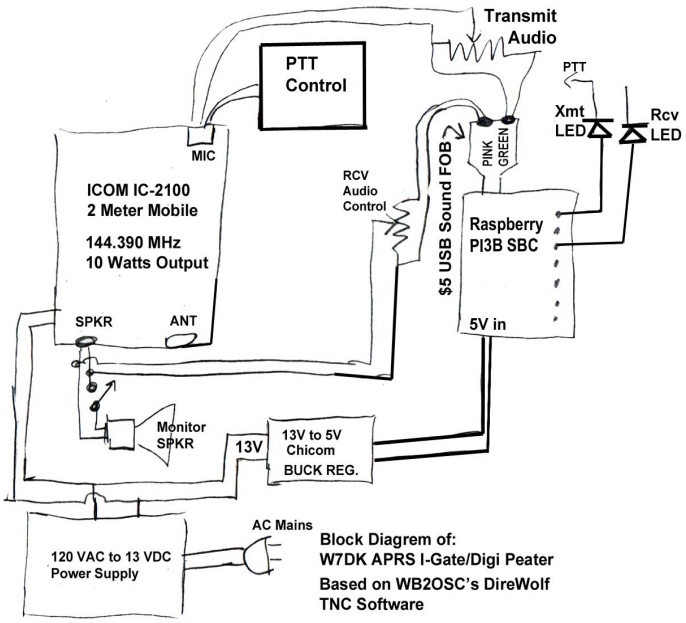
Joe asks: What does the Digi-Peater do? The W7DK **Digi-Peater** receives packet transmissions found **O**ver **T**he **A**ir on 144.390 MHz, then analyzes the data for validity, stores it, then forwards it (rebroadcasts) back out **OTA** if needed. The **I-**Gate (Internet Gateway) part of the W7DK system captures valid packet data and sends it to APRS-IS which is a world wide network of servers connected via the internet. The servers filter



The W7DK Digi-Peater built into a junk Cisco Router shell. Component bits are described in the following text.

received data to eliminate duplicate messages and errors. The website **www.aprs.fi** as well as **www.aprsdirect.com** gets its data from those servers. (Click to check them out).

Ole Joe asks: Where did the W7DK Digi-Peater come from? HRO? The Digi-Peater slash `I-Gate` is a homebrew project built by KR7W on behalf of the RCT Repeater Committee- whilst in deep Covid-19 isolation. The projects innards are: RCT PMT provided Icom IC-2100, Bob AD7LJ provided 6.5 Amp Power Supply, KR7W provided $45 Raspberry Pi3B, $5 USB Soundcard, $16 HDMI-VGA adapter, and $3 Chicom Buck Voltage regulator. A few parts were contributed by the Free Table. All these bits are housed in an old Cisco Router case that mounts in a Clubhouse Repeater equipment rack. As with most of KR7W's projects– there are one or



Above: This basic diagram shows how the bits are connected together. Not shown is the HDMI to VGA Video Adaptor and connection to the Clubhouse internet.

Right: Shows the Digi-Peater mounted above the IRLP PC at the clubhouse. The monitor connection can be moved to the IRLP PC as needed. The monitor is showing the OFF the AIR packet traffic received and de-coded which shows up in 5 colors– each which have a meaning. i.e.– Green = received packets from stations, Pink = Transmitted packets, and more categories. Green and Blue front panel LEDs indicate packets received and re-

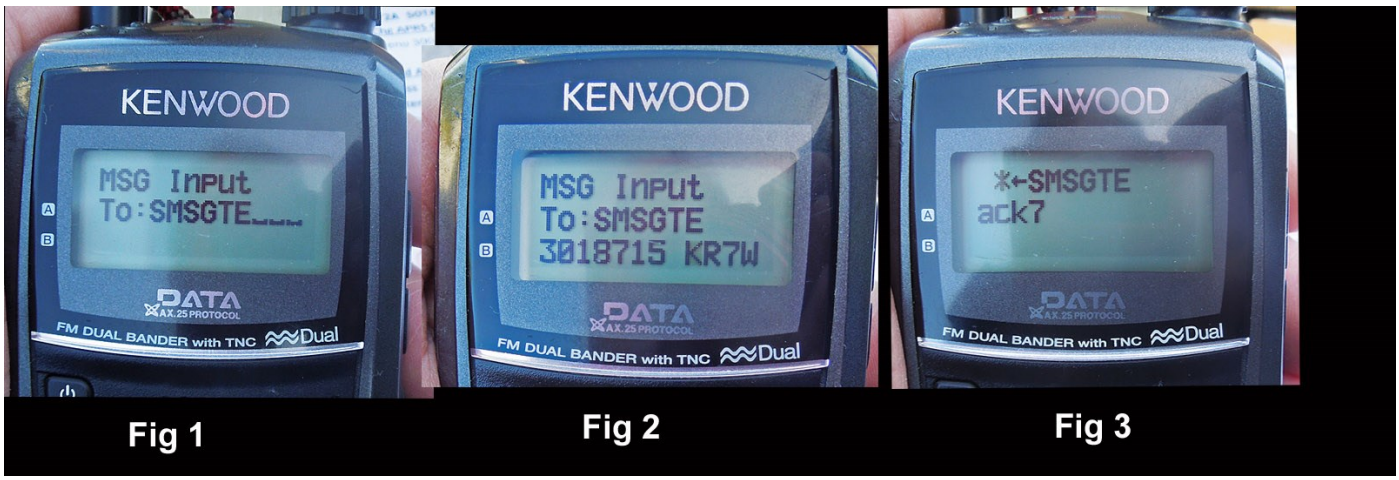
more pieces of plywood and epoxy adhesive involved.

The Raspberry Pi Single Board Computer- uses WB2OSC's Direwolf ver 1.5 software package found at GitHub. The author provides a lot of 'How To' guides, most of them way over my head.

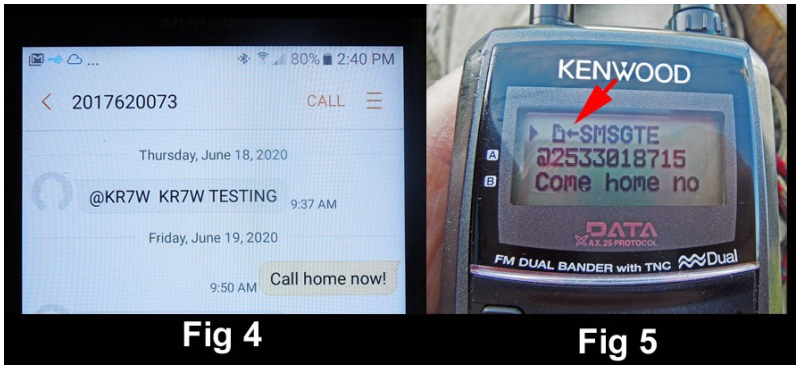
How is the Digi-Peater connected to OTA? The Digi-Peaters IC-2100 radio, set at 10 watts output is connected to a Comet GP-6 antenna mounted on the west side of the house which extends above the eaves. This antenna is also the backup antenna for the W7DK 147.280 repeater. Statistics found at **https://aprs.fi/info/a/W7DK** (Click it) show which APRS stations the DK digi-peater are in communications with. There's 6 Digi-

peaters in W7DKs orbit located at higher elevation that relay mobile station packets to DK's Digi to feed to the internet. The data also shows mobile APRS users, within an approx 10 mile orbit, that communicate directly with W7DK which forwards packets via RF on 144.390 and sends their packet data to the APRS-IS internet based servers. Experiments determined that 10 watts medium power output versus 50 watts high power didn't make any difference in the digi-peaters effective area of coverage. 10 watts output also allows a for a smaller sized power supply.

Last Question, sez Ole Joe. If I had an APRS radio– how would I send a TEXT to Mrs Joe using APRS? Looky here, Joe- I'll attempt to demonstrate. Sending a message via APRS sorta like texting with your smartphone. The message screen needs an address or ***TO***. In **Fig 1**, I the address**: SMSGTE**. Other addresses like: EMAIL, SOTA, or



a ham call like K7MXE can be used. **Fig 2**, shows I've input a short message and pressed ENTER. The radio beeps and the message is sent. Once the message is received by the SMS server– it returns acknowledgement– aka ***ACK***– **Fig 3.** This traveled backwards through the APRS-IS system, back to the originating Digi-Peater / I-Gate,



then out over the air and received by the originating radio.

After a short while my smartphone alerts me that I've received a text message seen in **Fig 4.** Lookit that, Joe!

I'll reply (Yellow text on phone screen in Fig 4) to the text and see what happens. After a short time the radio makes its Ring-Ring sound alerting that there is a message. The reply text is now shown on the radios display **Fig 5** . The red arrow points to the display arrow that shows the direction of the message. SMSGTE **—>** KR7W's radio. Note the radio screen is smaller than the message. The rest of the message can be seen by using the cursor movement keys. Did that answer your question, Ole Joe? **Yes , but I've got more questions– but on another day as you look exhausted.** Building the W7DK APRS Digi-Peater slash I-Gate was a challenging project– but asking Google the right questions provided the needed info to make it function and provide a visual learning tool for the clubhouse. If anyone would like more info on APRS– start here: **http://www.g4ilo.com/aprs.html** I am available to answer questions in person with prior arrangement. Thanks for reading thus far. 30 73 Rich KR7W.

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

RADIOGRAM

CITY OF ORIGIN	STATION	NUMBER
Tacoma, WA	W7OS	999T

TO:- Amateur Radio Operators—World Wide

News from the W7OS Museum– A Short History Lesson - by KR7W

On June 10, this year, I met Doug Wetzel K7IP and Marv Wheeler KG7V at the Clubhouse. Doug and Marv are from Ocean Shores, WA. Marv is a long time RCT Club Member– both Marv and Mrs Marv, aka Jean W7OII have served as club presidents.

Heavy Weight SX-28 (75 pounds) donated by N7WBA's estate. [photo taken with the Museum's Brownie Kodak

Doug and Marv were delivering a WW2 vintage Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver from the SK estate of N7WBA to the club as a donation.

While touring the Museum– Marv asked me if we had a wooden base Japanese Straight Key in the Museum collection. "Yes we do. We recently found it in a stray box of keys, cleaned it up, and used it for Straight Key Night", I replied. Marv told me in the mid-70s he retrieved the key from a box of junk- at a SK's estate- destined for the dump. The SK OM's wife gave it to Marv.

At a pinochle party at Jerry Seligman W7BUN's house, Marv asked Jerry's wife, Mishi, who is from Japan– to translate the metal plaque on the key. Mishi said the key was made by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries on December 7, 1941. Everyone was shocked and Marv knew the key belonged in the museum.

This is one of my favorite keys to use.

30 73 KR7W

REC'D AT STATION W7DK PHONE GR4-1232 TIME 1900

ADDRESS 1248 S Washington St, Tacoma, Wash DATE 5/1/55

This Message was transmitted free of charge by Amateur Radio Stations of the American Radio Relay League. Answer will be sent free by filing at this station.

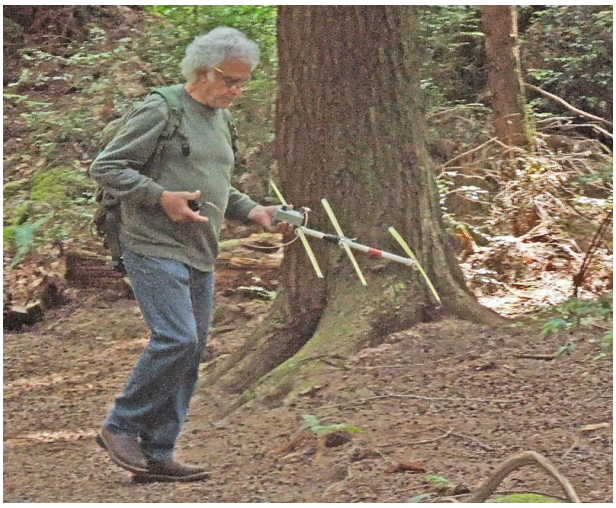
FORM 4 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

It's Not a Bunny Hunt… Hidden Transmitter Hunt by Cub Reporter KR7W

Above: Steve AF7YD in the area of #1

Took place on Thursday June 4 at the Mildred Street Entrance of Point Defiance Park. Parking was on the street as the gates to the park were locked due to Covid-19 closures. This activity was ***not*** a RCT event. Club members who were known to already own Transmitter Hunting equipment were privately invited to participate. No instruction or equipment was available in order to comply with social distancing requirements. Up close and personal- not allowed.

Blinky LED Eye Bunny flag marker for transmitter #3 (3 dits) placed in a rotted out stump approx 6 ft in elevation.



Left: Chuck AC7QN homing on #3.

Top: AF7YD also looking for the bunny!

6 folks showed up and 5 participated in the hunt to find 4 two-meter transmitters– all on different frequencies. 3 transmitters were hidden out in the woods and the 4th was hidden at the start location– to act as bread crumbs incase participants had trouble finding their way back. Note: Hunters are to find the ***flag*** – placed close to the transmitter and antenna.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the nice day in the park. Times to find all 3 transmitters varied from 55 to 90 minutes. More hunts will take place if folks are interested. **30 73 KR7W**

MAILBAG!

We get mail! Keep those cards and letters coming in folks! Be the first on your block to be published in the "Logger's Bark"!

Rich, KR7W Asks:

DID YOU KNOW?

That BEEP at the end of each transmission that comes from the W7DK 147.280 repeater is known as the COURTESY TONE? The tone is generated when the squelch in the Repeaters receiver closes– which means that the person who was talking has released their MIC button.

This is when YOU can begin your transmission. You don't have to wait for the repeater to stop transmitting and you hear the 'clunk' or 'TSSSSSH' sound.

Next, we have Bob K7MXE with an interesting antenna setup:

I am mulling in my mind to build a portable antenna base. It will double as a step stool but should be able to plug in a pipe or fiberglass poles and this not tip over. I may get pix and plans to you for next month. Yes I now no one will build one but it does fill up space. More later if I get 'er done Bob H

Above, you can see a couple of progress pictures from Bob. If you want to see more, please contact Bob directly. More pictures nest page...

Now we can see the completed antenna base/ step ladder. Bob, thanks for the pictures and please keep the good stuff coming in…

Speaking of that, Bob did have one more item, pictured next!

This months picture is the URM25 Military surplus signal generator
The URM25 used by all branches of the service back in the days of tubes.
Covers 10khz to 50mhz. Many hams got these through the MARS program.
This one is available to a good home for free and can deliver it to the clubhouse to a club member.

Well, that's it for this month's Mailbag! Keep those cards and letters coming in folks!

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3